THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The Government do not propose to impose a 10 per cent cut in the salaries of the Central Government Employees.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Export of Extracts of Ornamental Plants

737. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large scale exports of extracts of some commonly ornamental plants such as rose, jasmine etc., are being made by illicit traders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). Flower extracts like rose and jasmine concentrates are freely allowed for exports under the current Export Policy. The Government are not aware of any large scale exports of these extracts by illicit traders.

[*Translation*]

Widening of G.T. Road in Sasaram

738. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have allocated funds for widening of G.T. Road in Sasaram city; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which work on this road is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Four laning of National Highway No. 2 through Sasaram city is included in Annual Plan 1991-92 for sanction. The work will commence after issue of sanction and the award of contract. As such, it is too early to say when the widening work will actually start.

[*English*]

Crisis in Handloom Industry in Kerala

739. SHRI T.J. ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any crisis in handloom industry in Kerala;

(b) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for the development of handloom industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of Kerala submitted a note on the problems faced by the handloom industry in the State. The note highlighted the following major issues:-

(i) Fluctuation and hike in price of raw material;

(ii) Deficit in the production of finer